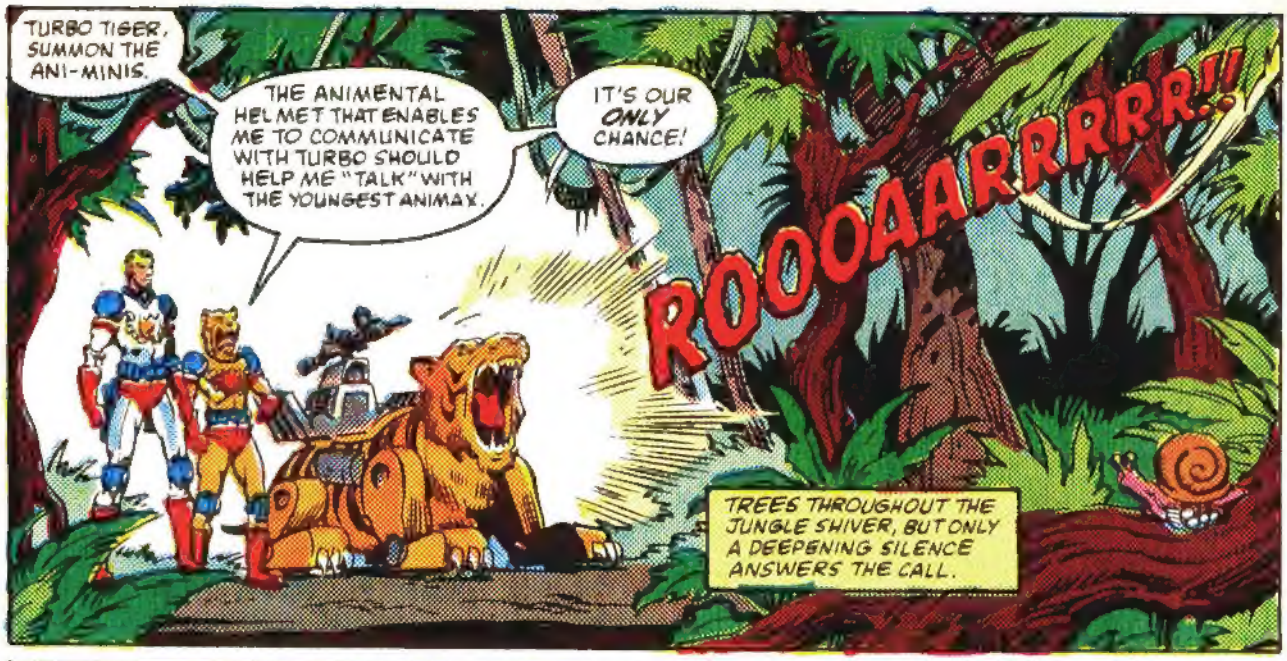
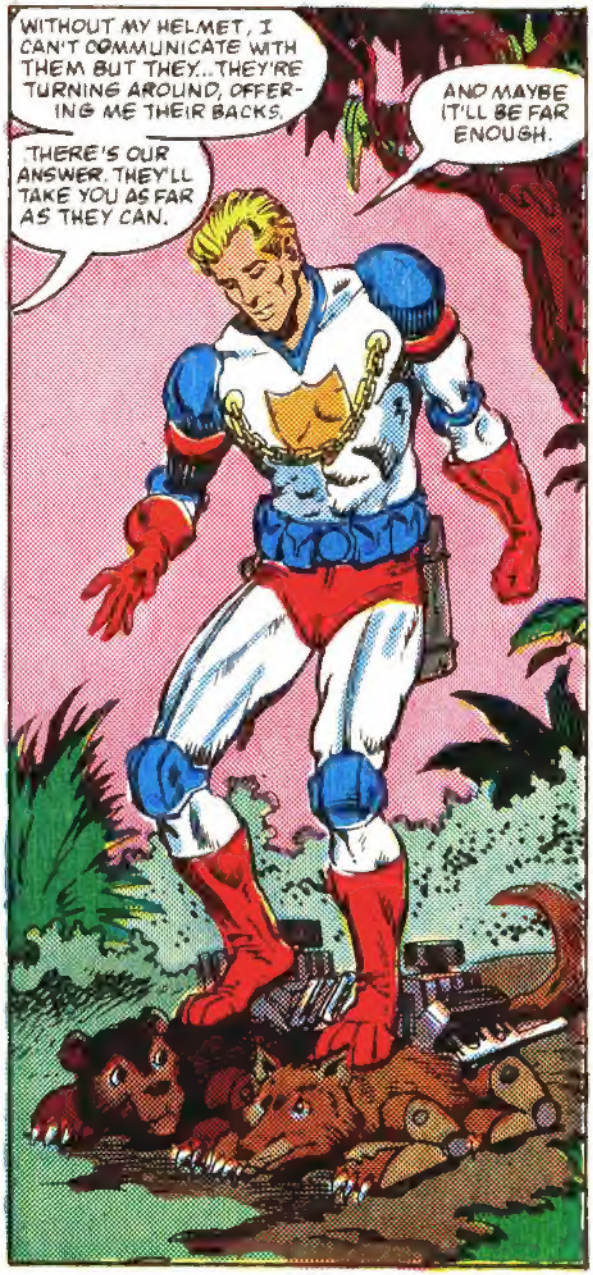
STAR™ comics
ANIMAX™
75¢
CAN. 95¢
2
FEB
MARVEL®
IT'S--
WAR!

WALT SIMONSON WRITER	STEVE PURCELL PENCILS	GERRY TALAOC INKS	RICK PARKER LETTERS	PETRA SCOTESE COLOR	DON DALEY EDITOR	JIM SHOOTER EDITOR IN CHIEF

ANIMAX™ Vol. 1, No. 2, February, 1987. Published by MARVEL COMICS GROUP, James E. Galton, President, Stan Lee, Publisher, Michael Hobson, Group Vice-President, Milton Schiffman, Vice-President, Production. OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016. Published bi-monthly. Copyright © 1986 Kiscom, Inc. All rights reserved. Price 75¢ per copy in the U.S. and 95¢ in Canada. Subscription rates $9.00 for 12 issues and $11.00 in Canada and foreign. Printed in the U.S.A. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. This periodical may not be sold except by authorized dealers and is sold subject to the conditions that it shall not be sold or distributed with any part of its cover or markings removed, nor in a mutilated condition. ANIMAX (including all prominent characters featured in this issue) and the distinctive likenesses thereof, are trademarks of Kiscom Inc. **POSTMASTER: SEND ALL ADDRESS CHANGES TO ANIMAX, 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016.**


TURBO TIGER, SUMMON THE ANI-MINIS.
THE ANIMENTAL HELMET THAT ENABLES ME TO COMMUNICATE WITH TURBO SHOULD HELP ME "TALK" WITH THE YOUNGEST ANIMAX.
IT'S OUR ONLY CHANCE!
ROOOAARRRRR!!!
TREES THROUGHOUT THE JUNGLE SHIVER, BUT ONLY A DEEPENING SILENCE ANSWERS THE CALL.

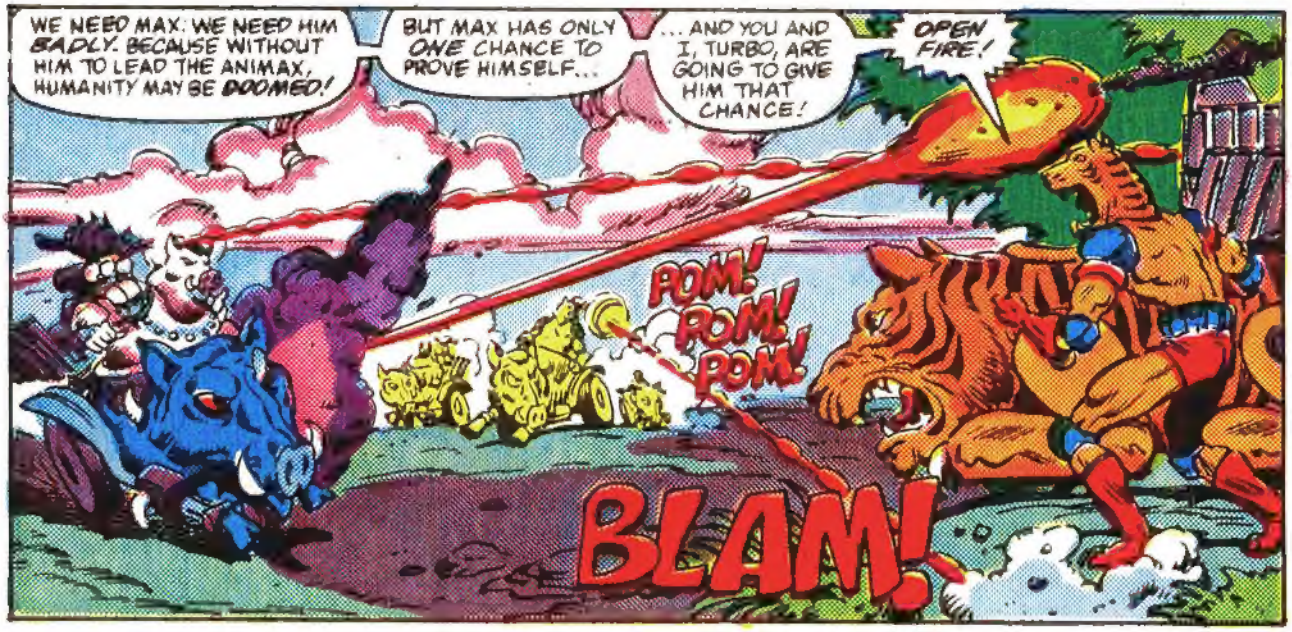
THEN THE SILENCE IS BROKEN BY THE SOUND OF TINY ENGINES REVVED TO THE RED LINE!
THE ANI-MINIS HAVE ARRIVED!
WELCOME, LITTLE BUDDIES. WE NEED YOUR HELP.
MAX ACTION MUST FIND THE GREAT LION, JUNGLE MAX.
HE'S HEADING FOR THE DRAGWAY OF DOOM THAT LEADS TO THE ANIMAX GRAVEYARD.
MAX MUST FIND HIM BEFORE HE REACHES IT. CAN YOU HELP?

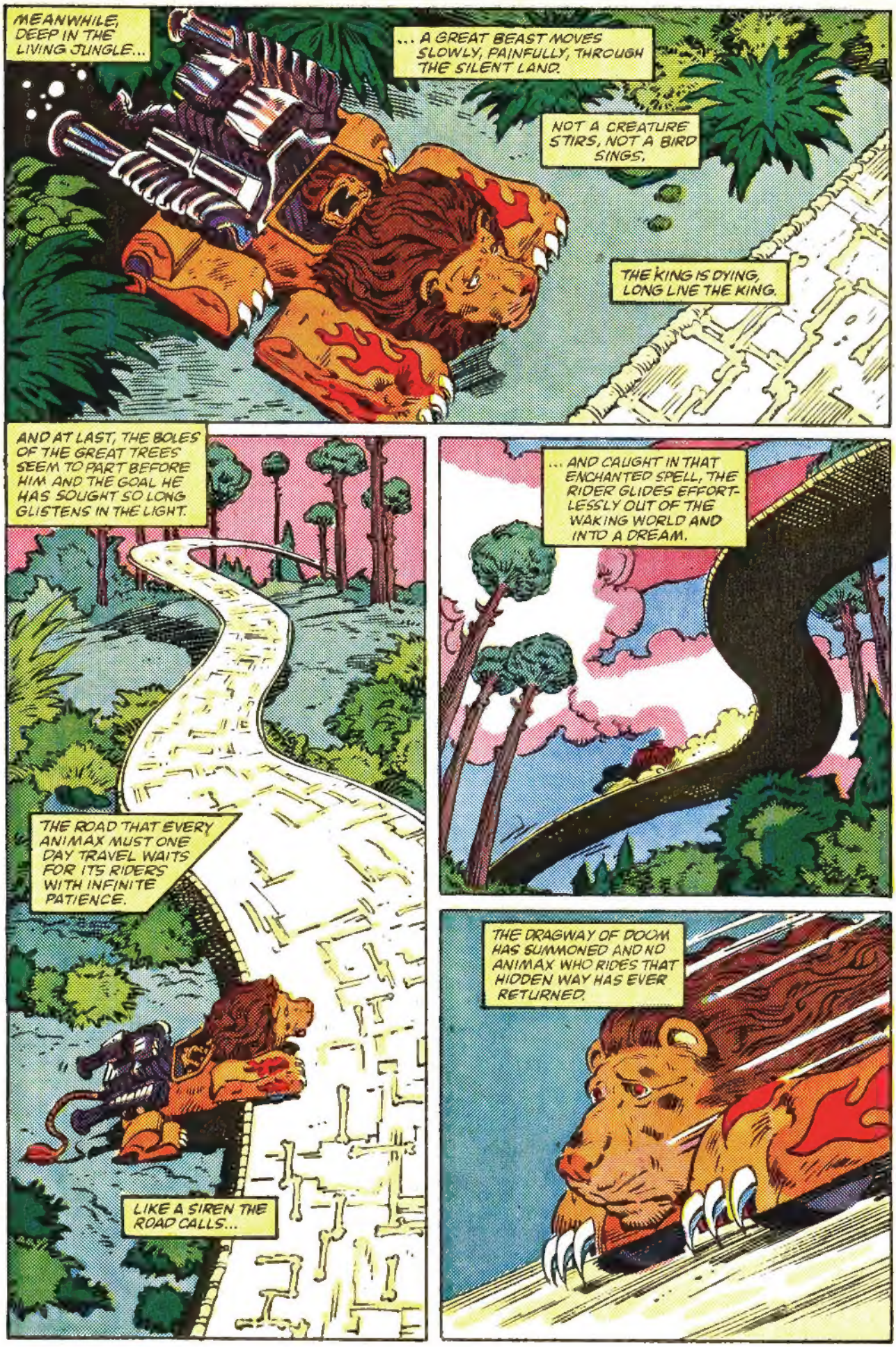

WITHOUT MY HELMET, I CAN'T COMMUNICATE WITH THEM BUT THEY...THEY'RE TURNING AROUND, OFFERING ME THEIR BACKS.
THERE'S OUR ANSWER. THEY'LL TAKE YOU AS FAR AS THEY CAN.
AND MAYBE IT'LL BE FAR ENOUGH.

HERE COME THE ROAD HOGS, TURBO!
TAKE OFF, MAX!
VARRROOOM!
SO LONG, TIGER! GOOD LUCK!

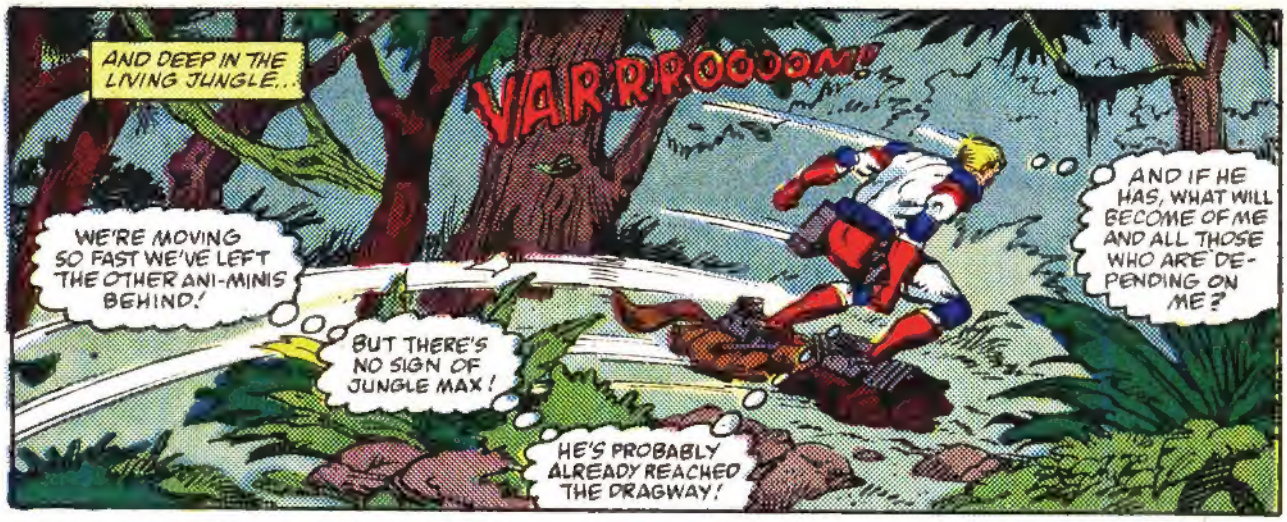
THE HOGS WANT TO CATCH MAX AND KILL US WHILE THE REST OF THE MOTOR MUTANTS ARE ATTACKING PEOPLOPOLIS.
I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT ONLY YESTERDAY, THE MOTOR MUTANTS AMBUSHED MAX ACTION AND KILLED HIM!
BUT SOMEHOW, IN THE MUSEUM OF TRANSPORTATION IN PEOPLOPOLIS, THE CARETAKER RESURRECTED HIM... OR DUPLICATED HIM.

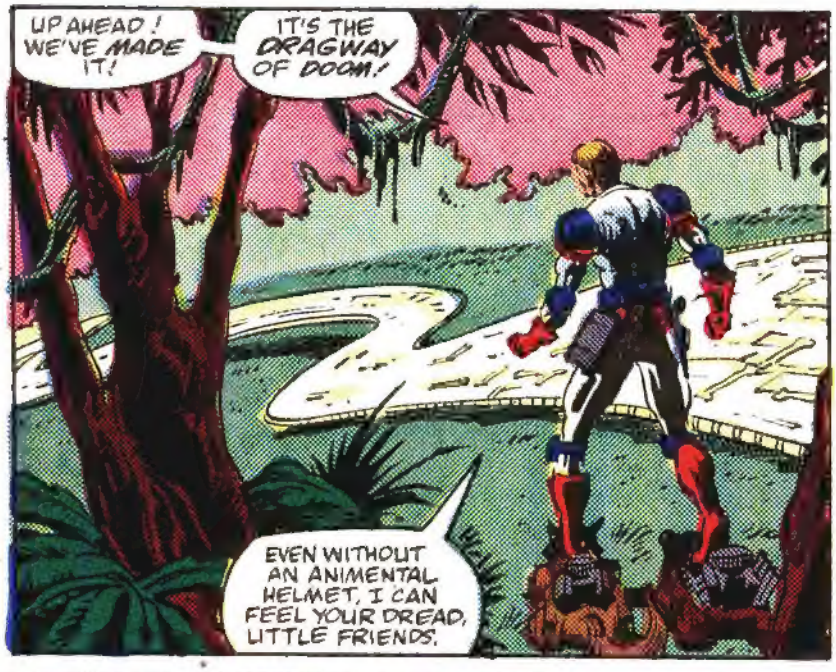
AND NOW I DON'T KNOW IF THIS IS THE REAL MAX ACTION OR IF IT'S ALL SOME CRAZY DREAM!
I COULDN'T BELIEVE IT MYSELF UNTIL I SAW HIM IN ACTION AGAINST THE MUTANTS! HE WAS INCREDIBLE!
MAYBE HE REALLY IS MAX ACTION!
READY AUTO-FIRE, TURBO!


WE NEED MAX. WE NEED HIM BADLY. BECAUSE WITHOUT HIM TO LEAD THE ANIMAX, HUMANITY MAY BE DOOMED!
BUT MAX HAS ONLY ONE CHANCE TO PROVE HIMSELF...
... AND YOU AND I, TURBO, ARE GOING TO GIVE HIM THAT CHANCE!
OPEN FIRE!
POM! POM! POM!
BLAM!

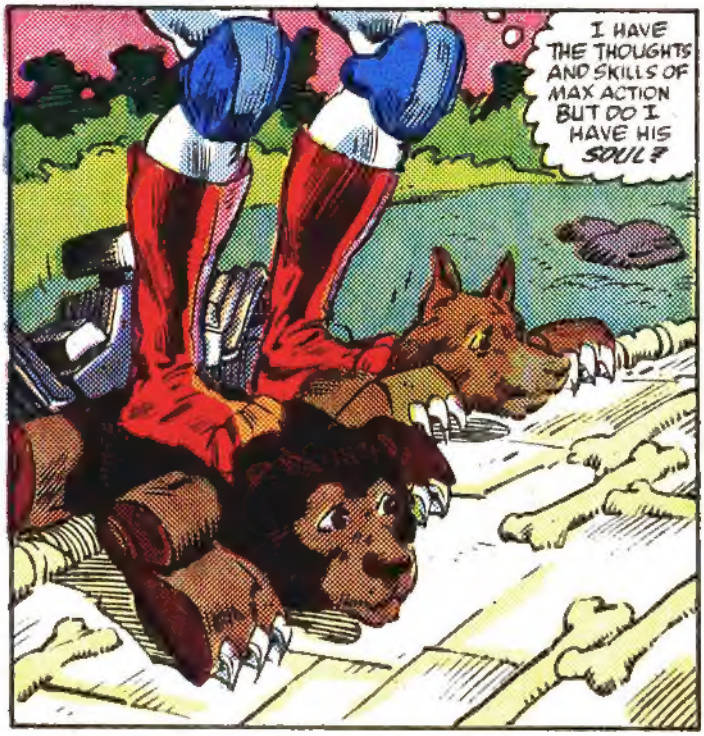

MEANWHILE, DEEP IN THE LIVING JUNGLE...
... A GREAT BEAST MOVES SLOWLY, PAINFULLY, THROUGH THE SILENT LAND.
NOT A CREATURE STIRS, NOT A BIRD SINGS.
THE KING IS DYING, LONG LIVE THE KING.
AND AT LAST, THE BOLES OF THE GREAT TREES SEEM TO PART BEFORE HIM AND THE GOAL HE HAS SOUGHT SO LONG GLISTENS IN THE LIGHT.
THE ROAD THAT EVERY ANIMAX MUST ONE DAY TRAVEL WAITS FOR ITS RIDERS WITH INFINITE PATIENCE.
LIKE A SIREN THE ROAD CALLS...
... AND CAUGHT IN THAT ENCHANTED SPELL, THE RIDER GLIDES EFFORTLESSLY OUT OF THE WAKING WORLD AND INTO A DREAM.
THE DRAGWAY OF DOOM HAS SUMMONED AND NO ANIMAX WHO RIDES THAT HIDDEN WAY HAS EVER RETURNED.

AT THAT MOMENT IN THE GREAT CITY OF PEOPLOPOLIS...
LOOK AT THE SKY!
WHAT IS IT, MOTHER?
I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE IT! WHAT'S HAPPENED TO WEATHER CONTROL?
IT'S A TERRIBLE THUNDERSTORM, DARLING, AND IT CAN ONLY MEAN ONE THING!
TAKE A LOOK, RHINOX. X-TINCTOR HIMSELF HAS ARRIVED TO TAKE CHARGE OF THE SIEGE!
PATHETIC WEAKLINGS! MAX ACTION IS DEAD! WITHOUT HIM, YOUR PRECIOUS ANIMAX CANNOT PROTECT YOU FOR LONG.
SURRENDER AND WE MAY BE MERCIFUL.
RESIST AND WE SHALL LEVEL THE CITY!
THE DAY OF THE MOTOR MUTANTS HAS COME AT LAST!

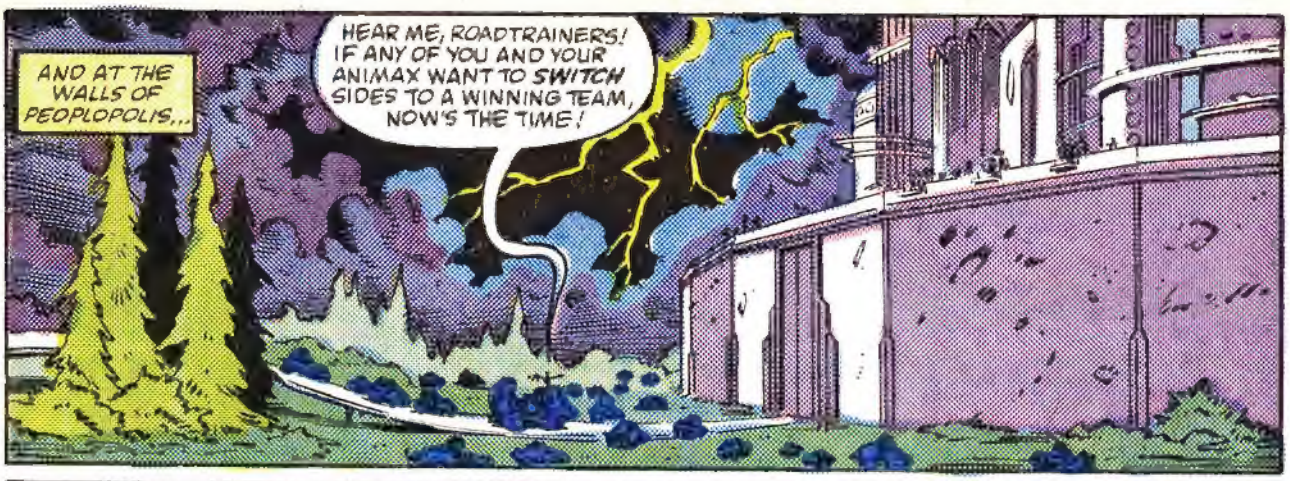

AND DEEP IN THE LIVING JUNGLE...
VARRROOOOM!
WE'RE MOVING SO FAST WE'VE LEFT THE OTHER ANI-MINIS BEHIND!
BUT THERE'S NO SIGN OF JUNGLE MAX!
HE'S PROBABLY ALREADY REACHED THE DRAGWAY!
AND IF HE HAS, WHAT WILL BECOME OF ME AND ALL THOSE WHO ARE DEPENDING ON ME?


UP AHEAD! WE'VE MADE IT!
IT'S THE DRAGWAY OF DOOM!
EVEN WITHOUT AN ANIMENTAL HELMET, I CAN FEEL YOUR DREAD, LITTLE FRIENDS.

BUT MAYBE YOU CAN FEEL MY HOPE. AND KNOW THAT WE HAVE TO TAKE THE ROAD THE SAME AS JUNGLE MAX.
BECAUSE EVEN THOUGH I FEEL LIKE I'M THE SAME MAX ACTION AS BEFORE, I KNOW THAT I'M BRAND-NEW, UNTRIED, UNTESTED.

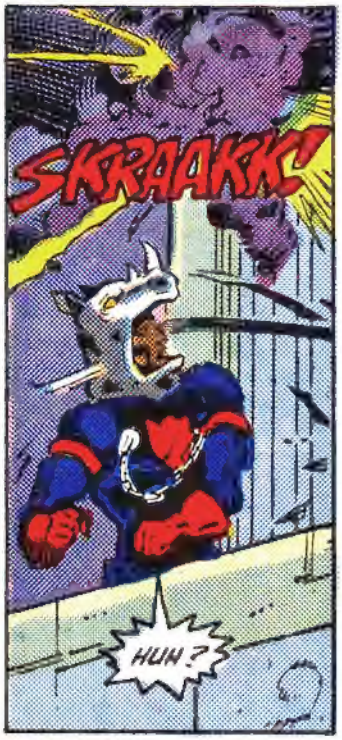

I HAVE THE THOUGHTS AND SKILLS OF MAX ACTION BUT DO I HAVE HIS SOUL?

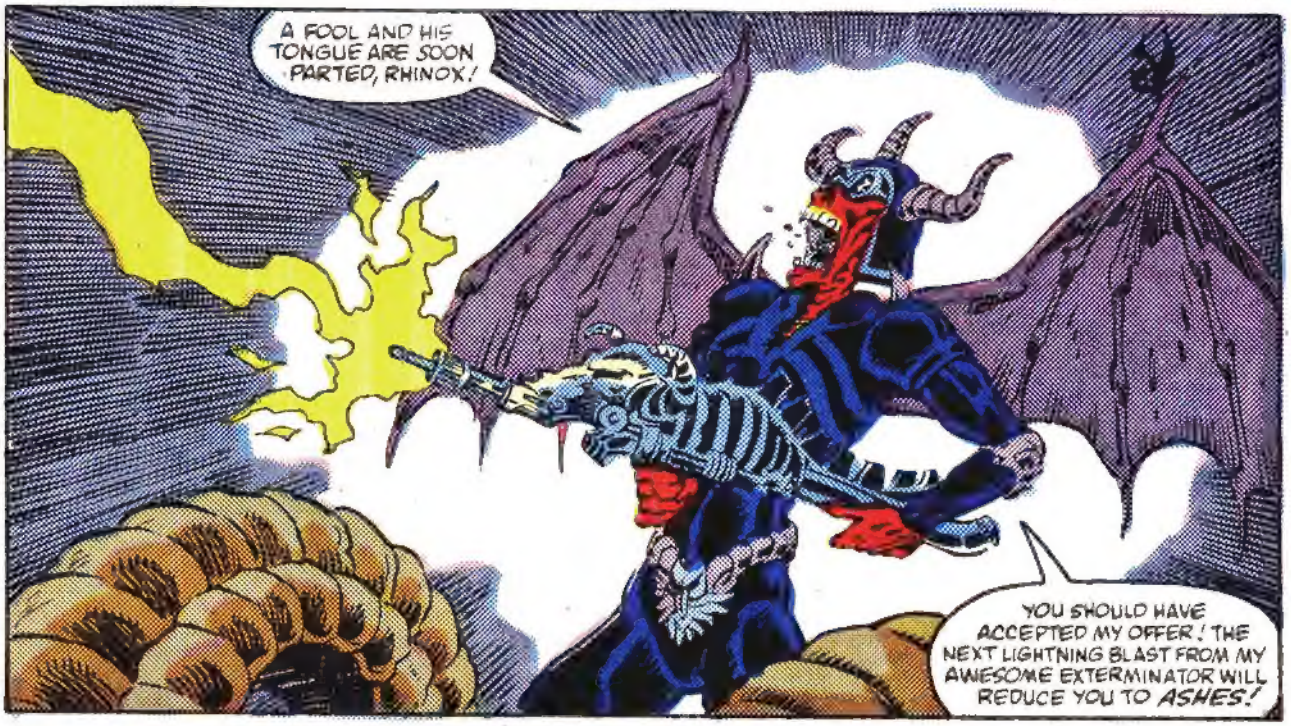
ONLY IF I CAN TALK TO JUNGLE MAX THROUGH THE ANIMENTAL LION HELMET WILL THE REST OF THE ROAD-TRAINERS AND THE CITIZENS OF PEOPLOPOLIS BELIEVE THAT I AM THE REAL MAX ACTION!
MAYBE THEN I CAN EVEN BELIEVE IT MYSELF!
FOR THE SAKE OF MY FRIENDS, FOR THE SAKE OF EVERY LIVING HUMAN BEING, I'VE GOT TO BE THE REAL THING!

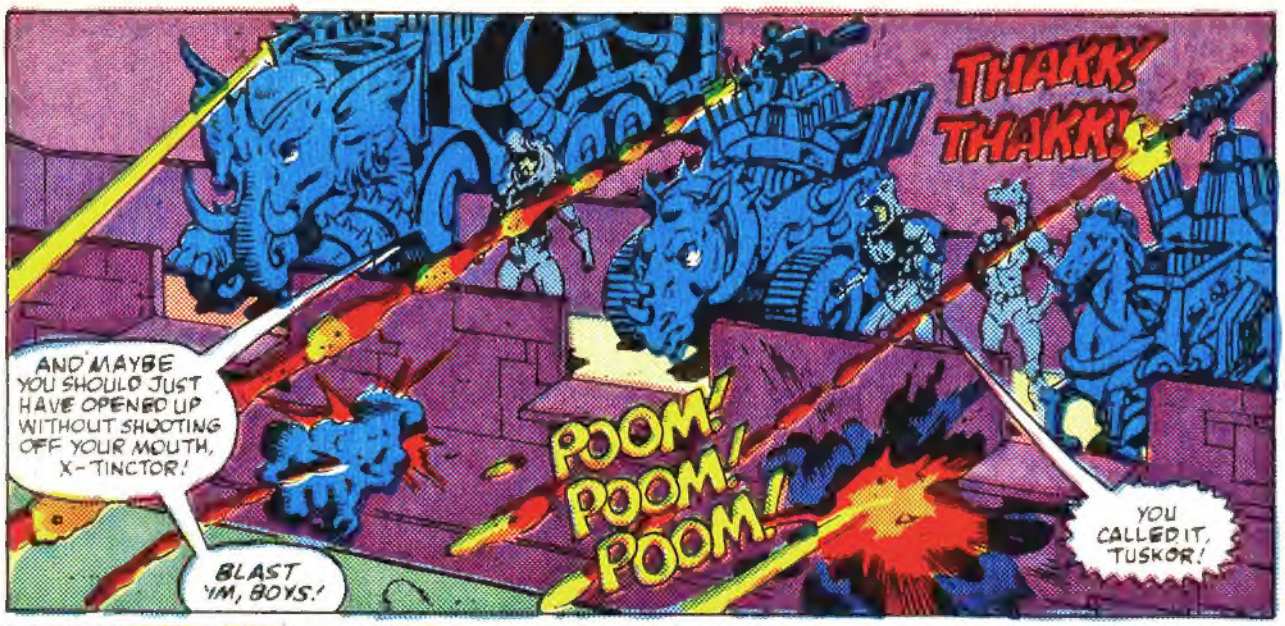

AND AT THE WALLS OF PEOPLOPOLIS...
HEAR ME, ROADTRAINERS! IF ANY OF YOU AND YOUR ANIMAX WANT TO SWITCH SIDES TO A WINNING TEAM, NOW'S THE TIME!

WE CAN ALWAYS USE A GOOD FIGHTER ON THE NITESIDE.
I'M ONLY MAKING THIS OFFER ONCE!

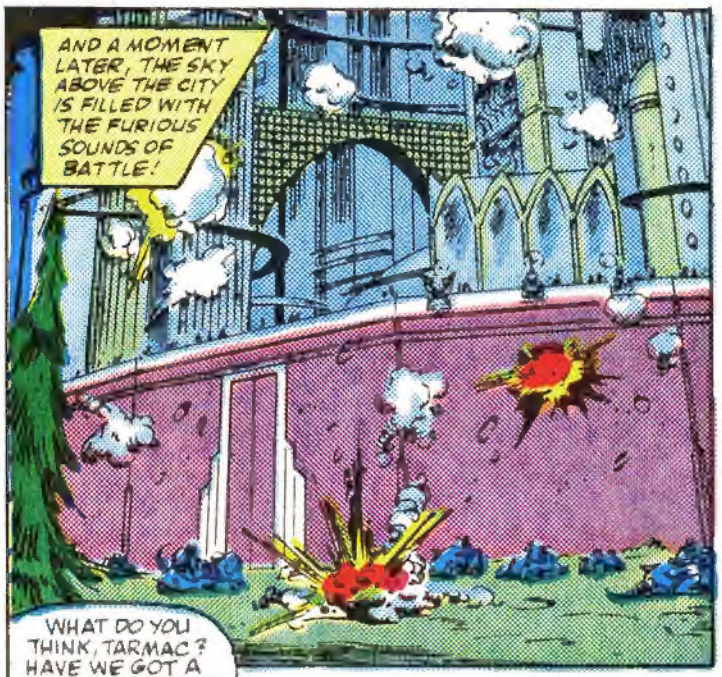
GREAT, THEN WE'LL BE SPARED THE TROUBLE OF HEARING IT AGAIN!
WHY DON'T YOU GO PLAY IN TRAFFIC, X-TINCTOR?


SKRAAKK!
HUH?

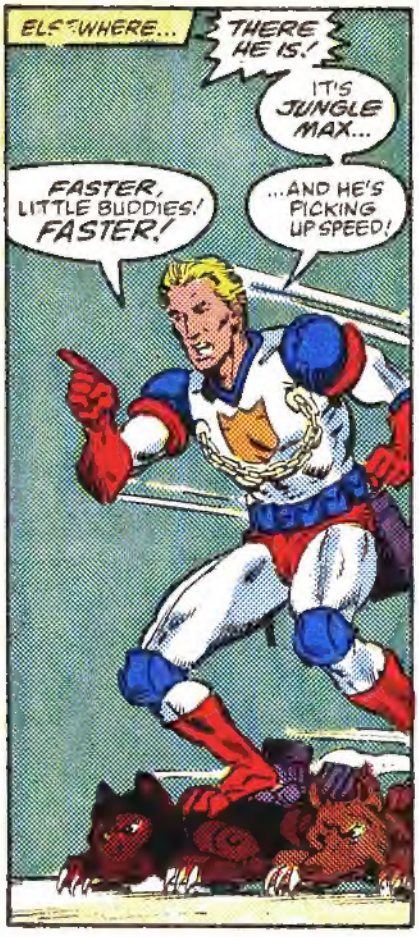

A FOOL AND HIS TONGUE ARE SOON PARTED, RHINOX!
YOU SHOULD HAVE ACCEPTED MY OFFER! THE NEXT LIGHTNING BLAST FROM MY AWESOME EXTERMINATOR WILL REDUCE YOU TO ASHES!

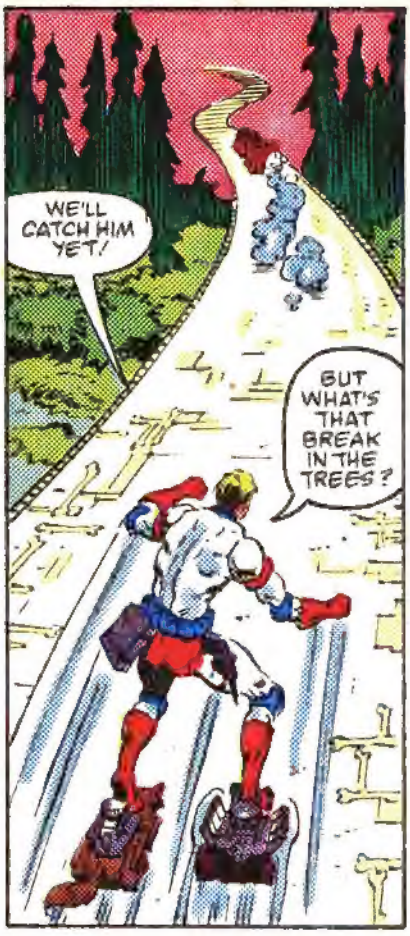

THAKK! THAKK!
AND MAYBE YOU SHOULD JUST HAVE OPENED UP WITHOUT SHOOTING OFF YOUR MOUTH, X-TINCTOR!
POOM! POOM! POOM!
YOU CALLED IT, TUSKOR!
BLAST 'IM, BOYS!

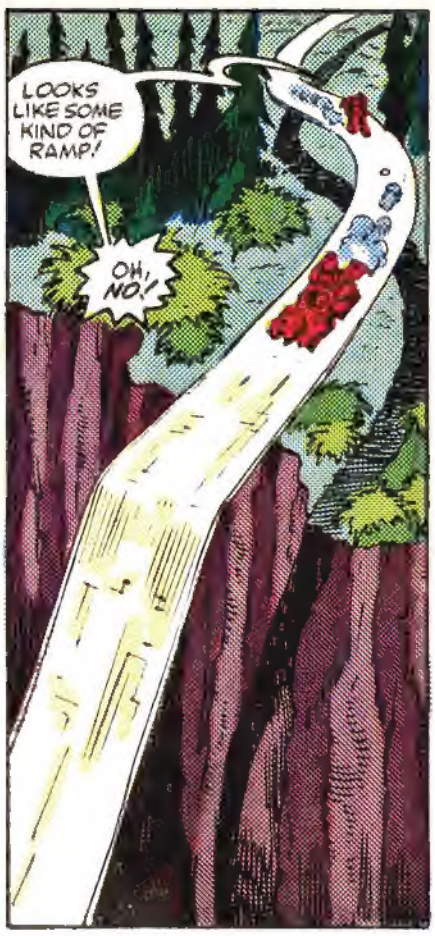
GET BACK!
X-TINCTOR, THEY'VE STARTED SHOOTING!
WHAT DID YOU EXPECT, IDIOT? SHOOT BACK!
FOOLS! YOU'LL REGRET THAT YOU WERE EVER BORN BEFORE I'M THROUGH WITH YOU!
TODAY, PEOPLOPOLIS FALLS TO THE MOTOR MUTANTS!

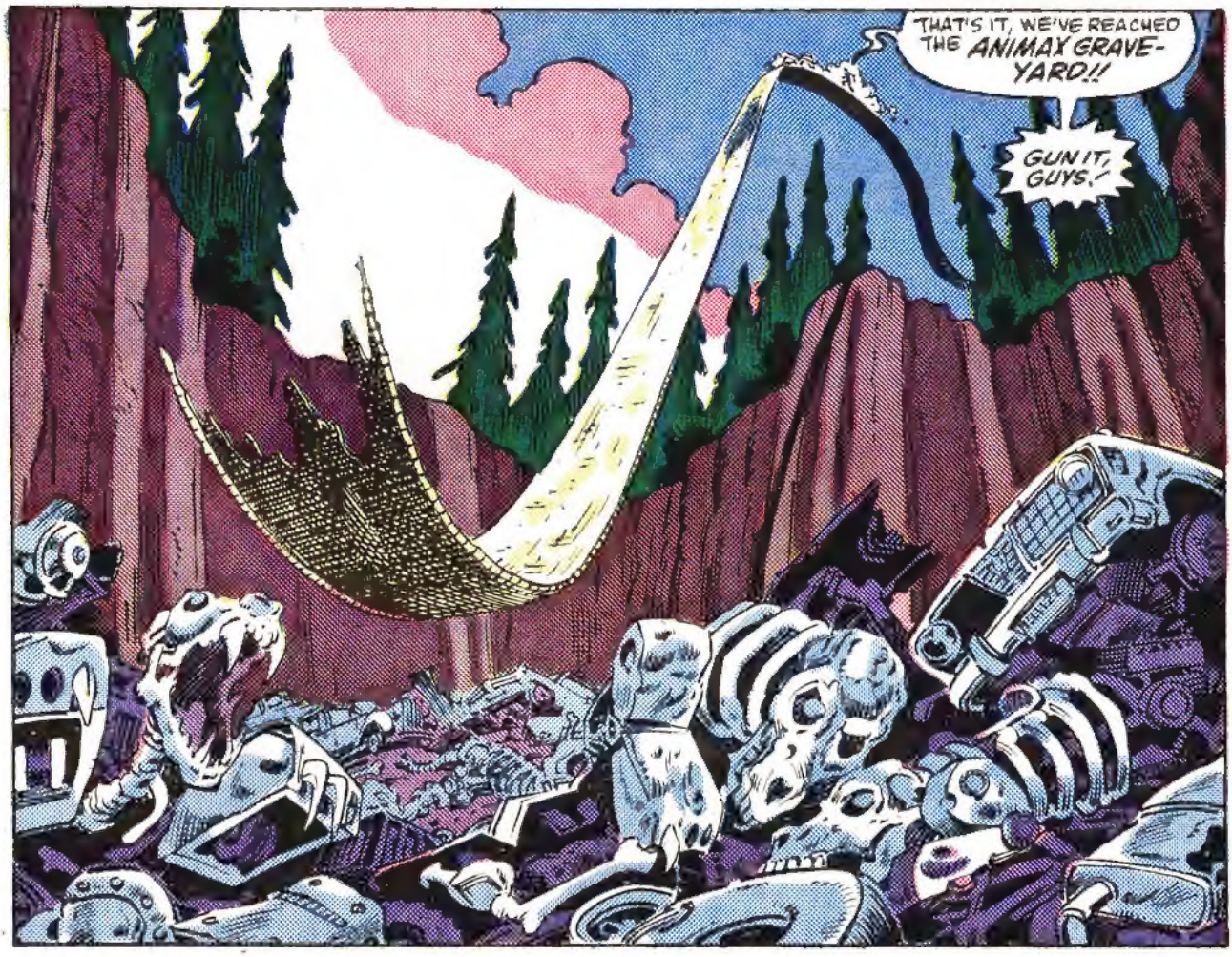

AND A MOMENT LATER, THE SKY ABOVE THE CITY IS FILLED WITH THE FURIOUS SOUNDS OF BATTLE!

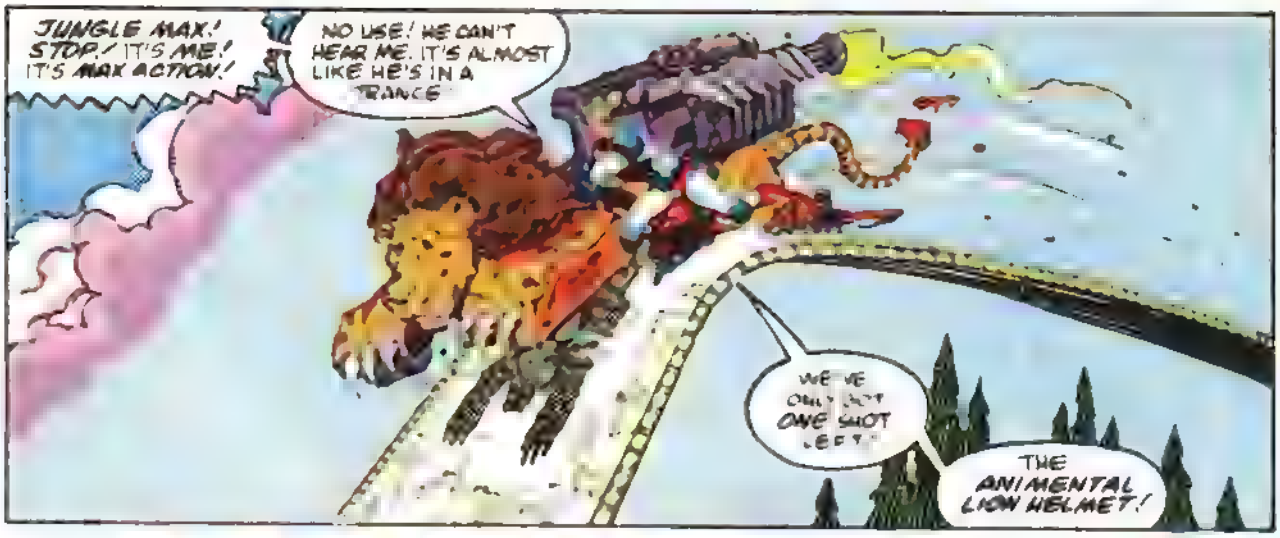
WHAT DO YOU THINK, TARMAC? HAVE WE GOT A CHANCE WITHOUT MAX AND TIGER TRAKKER?
NOT A GOOD ONE, I'M AFRAID.
BUT WE'LL MAKE THE MUTANTS PAY HEAVILY FOR IGNORING OUR "KEEP OFF THE GRASS" SIGNS.


ELSEWHERE...
THERE HE IS!
IT'S JUNGLE MAX...
FASTER, LITTLE BUDDIES! FASTER!
...AND HE'S PICKING UP SPEED!

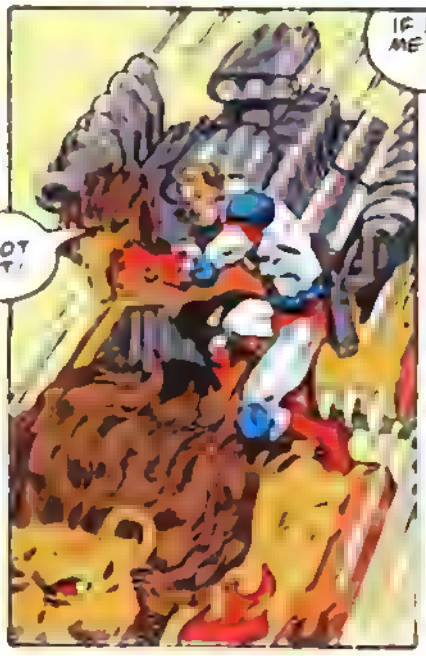

WE'LL CATCH HIM YET!
BUT WHAT'S THAT BREAK IN THE TREES?


LOOKS LIKE SOME KIND OF RAMP!
OH, NO!

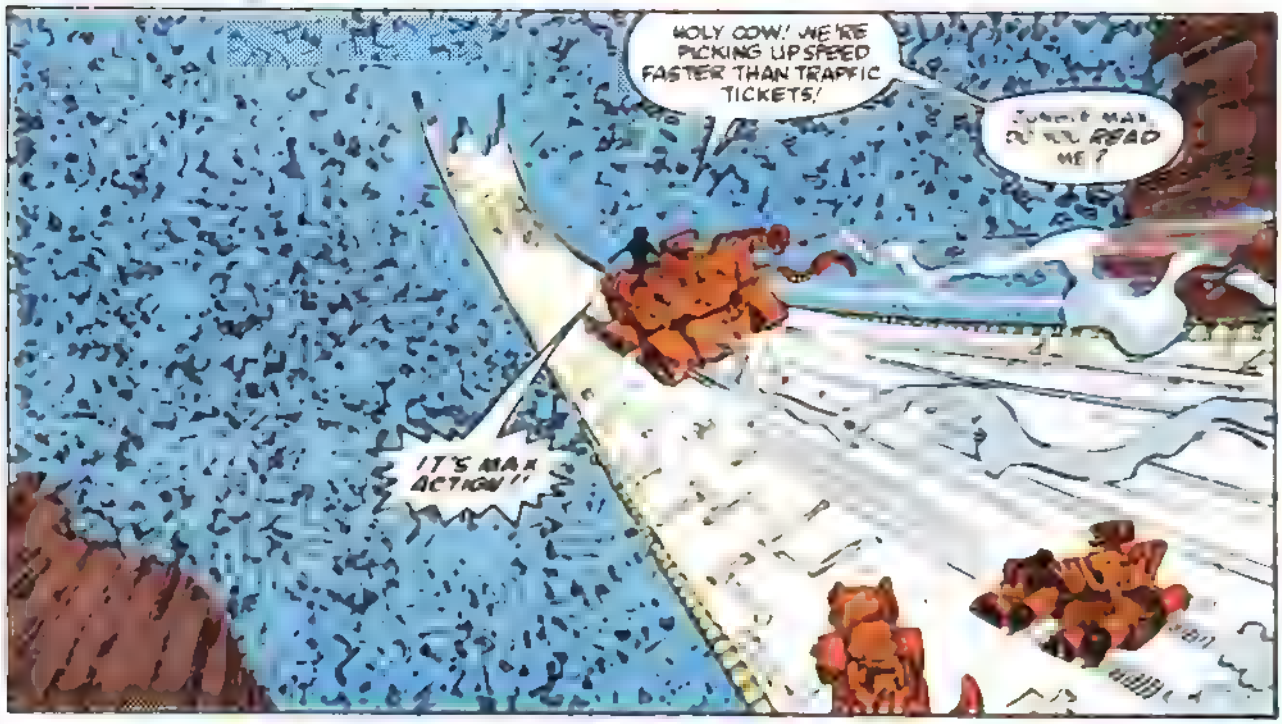

THAT'S IT, WE'VE REACHED THE ANIMAX GRAVE-YARD!!
GUN IT, GUYS!


JUNGLE MAX! STOP! IT'S ME! IT'S MAX ACTION!
NO USE! HE CAN'T HEAR ME. IT'S ALMOST LIKE HE'S IN A TRANCE!
WE'VE ONLY GOT ONE SHOT LEFT!
THE ANIMENTAL LION HELMET!

IT'S IN JUNGLE MAX'S COCKPIT!


GOT IT!

IF IT DOESN'T CONNECT ME TO JUNGLE MAX NOW, WE'VE HAD IT!
AND MAYBE WE'VE HAD IT ANYWAY!

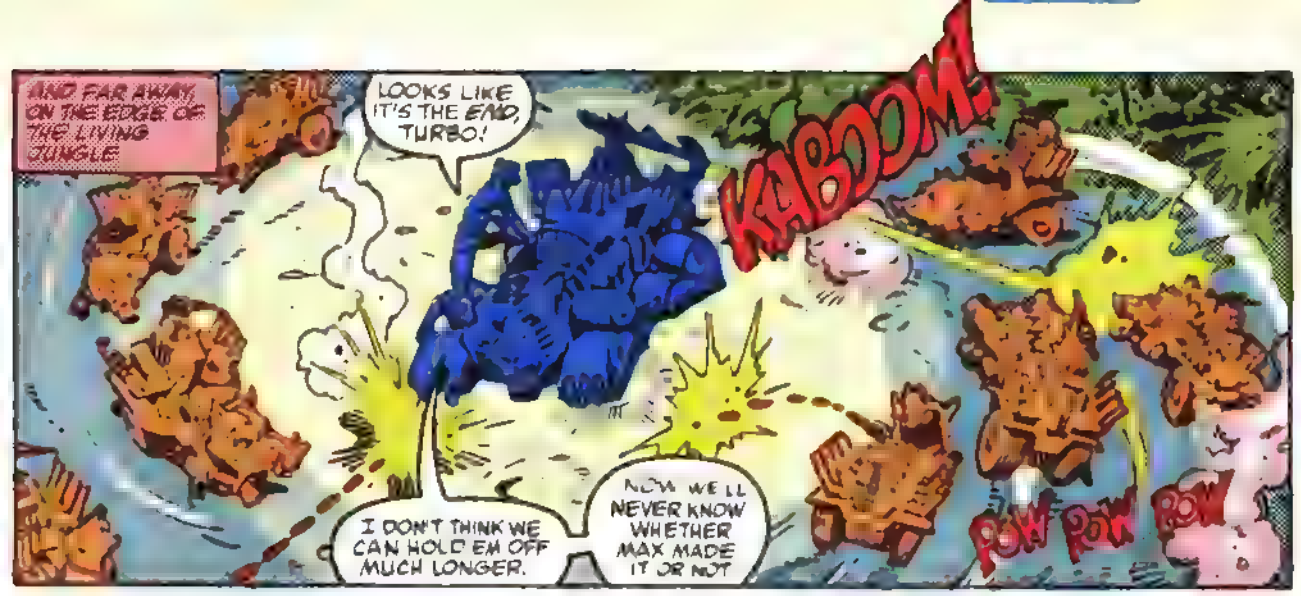

HOLY COW! WE'RE PICKING UP SPEED FASTER THAN TRAFFIC TICKETS!
JUNGLE MAX, DO YOU READ ME?
IT'S MAX ACTION!!

JUNGLE MAX, BLAST IT! PUT ON THE BRAKES! DO YOU WANT TO GET US BOTH KILLED? WASN'T ONCE ENOUGH?
I'VE BEEN THERE ALREADY AND IT'S NO FUN!
MAX!
ROOARR?!

WILL YOU STOP THIS NONSENSE BEFORE WE
SCREEEEEEEEEEE

EEECHH!
WHEW!

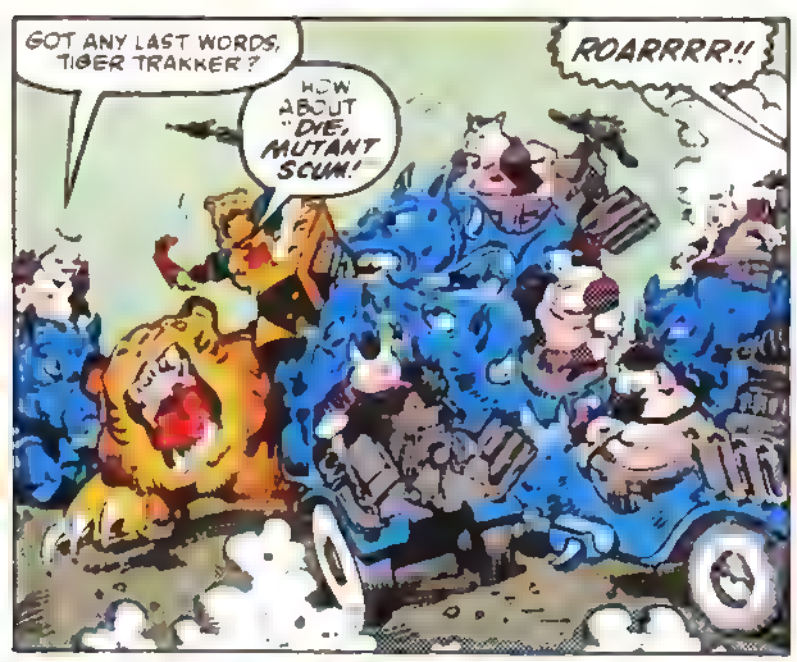
UH, LISTEN, OLD BOY, DO ME A FAVOR AND LET'S NEVER DO THIS AGAIN, OKAY?
AND I HAVE SOMETHING SPECIAL FOR YOU.
YOU KNOW, THERE WERE TIMES WHEN I THOUGHT YOU WERE THE HANDSOMEST ANIMAX IN THE PACK, BUT YOU NEVER LOOKED BETTER TO ME THAN YOU DO RIGHT NOW!
THE CARETAKER'S DAUGHTER, HEATER, GAVE IT TO ME.* IT'S A SPECIAL FUEL AND SEALANT MIXTURE.
IT'S NO SUBSTITUTE FOR A GOOD OVERHAUL BUT IT OUGHT TO HOLD YOU TILL WE GET BACK HOME.
GLUG! GLUG! GLUG!
JUNGLE? YOU OKAY, BOY?
JUNGLE?
ROOOAAAARRRR!


AND FAR AWAY, ON THE EDGE OF THE LIVING JUNGLE
LOOKS LIKE IT'S THE END, TURBO!
KABOOM!
I DON'T THINK WE CAN HOLD EM OFF MUCH LONGER.
NOW WE'LL NEVER KNOW WHETHER MAX MADE IT OR NOT
POW POW POW

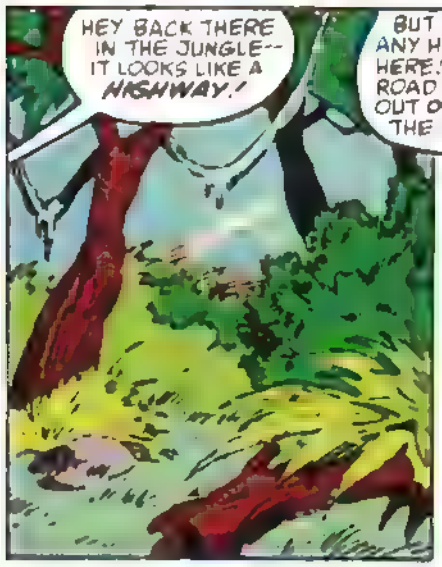
AND IF HE DIDN'T, MAYBE I'D RATHER NOT--
WHAT IS IT, TURBO? YOU HEAR SOMETHING?
ME TOO SORT OF LIKE THUNDER

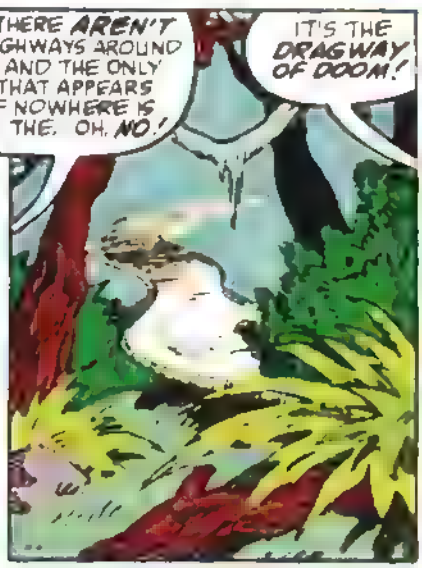
GRROOWWL!!
TURBO!!
SKRASH!
SQUEEEEEEEL!
MY NOS!

THIS IS IT, TURBO! LET'S GO OUT IN A BLAZE OF GLORY!
THE STRIPED STRIKER IS ALMOST EMPTY BUT THERE ARE ENOUGH CHARGES LEFT TO NAIL A COUPLE MORE MUTANTS!
WE GOT 'EM NOW! CHARGE!

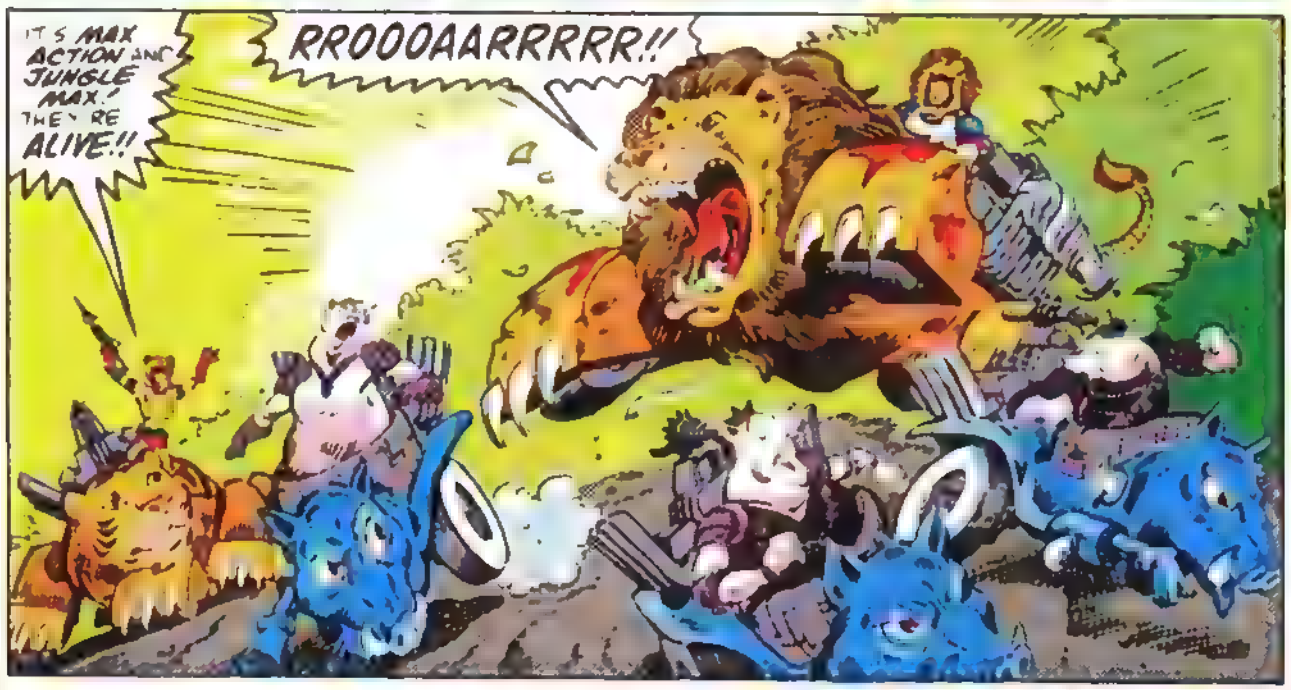

GOT ANY LAST WORDS, TIGER TRAKKER?
HOW ABOUT "DIE, MUTANT SCUM!"
ROARRRR!!

WHAT WAS THAT?
SOUNDED LIKE A FUEL-INJECTED SHAVED HEAD HEMI!


HEY BACK THERE IN THE JUNGLE-- IT LOOKS LIKE A HIGHWAY!


BUT THERE AREN'T ANY HIGHWAYS AROUND HERE! AND THE ONLY ROAD THAT APPEARS OUT OF NOWHERE IS THE THE. OH, NO!
IT'S THE DRAGWAY OF DOOM!

IT CAN'T BE!
RUN!
GET OUT OF MY WAY!


IT'S MAX ACTION AND JUNGLE MAX! THEY'RE ALIVE!!
RROOOAARRRRR!!

MAX! BOY, ARE WE GLAD TO SEE YOU! RIGHT, TURBO?

I WOULDN'T HAVE MADE IT WITHOUT YOU AND TURBO WE'LL NEVER FORGET IT.

GROOWWLL!

LET'S CALL IT *EVEN*. BUT WE'VE STILL GOT PROBLEMS

X-TINCTOR MAY ALREADY HAVE BROKEN THE WALLS OF PEOPLOPOLIS AND TAKEN THE CITY.

WE'VE GOT TO GET BACK THERE ON THE DOUBLE!

IS JUNGLE MAX UP TO IT?

THAT HI-OCTANE STUFF HEATER GAVE ME'S WORKING WONDERS, BUT IT WON'T LAST FOREVER

WADDYA SAY, OLD BOY? YOU GOT ONE MORE SCRAP LEFT IN YOU?

ROOOAAARRRR!!

AND ACROSS THE FIELDS...

THE ENEMY FIRE IS WEAKENING, GREAT X-TINCTOR!

THEN THE TIME HAS COME TO LAUNCH OUR FINAL ATTACK, GREASE KICKER!

PULL YOUR CARNIVAURS BACK AND PREPARE TO FOLLOW ME INTO THE CITY!

I MYSELF SHALL DELIVER THE DEATH BLOW TO THE GREAT CITADEL OF HUMANITY!

FORWARD, OBLITERATOR! RAMMING SPEED!!

KATHHWAMHMM!

THAT SHOCK THE WALLS! BACK OFF!

AGAIN, OBLITERATOR! VICTORY'S WITHIN OUR GRASP!

KKERRRASSHHH!

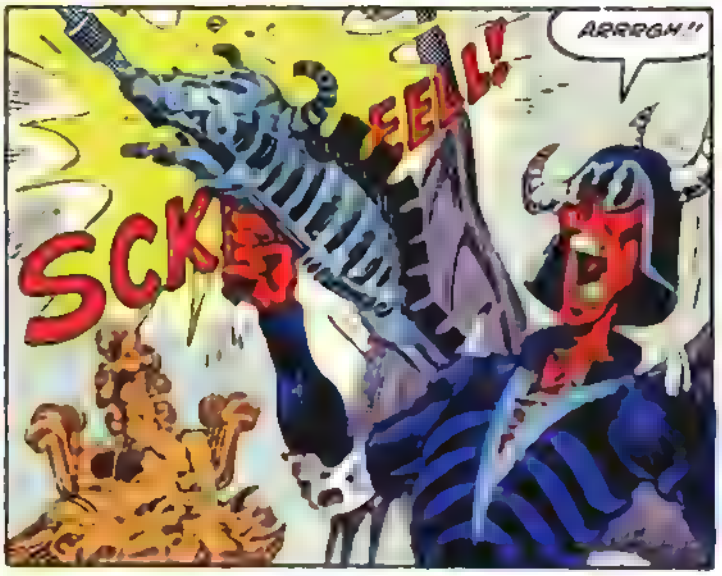
THE GREAT GATES ARE BEGINNING TO GIVE!

DON'T STOP! PUT IT INTO OVERDRIVE!!

BAARROOOOMMM!
CALL UP THE LAST OF THE RESERVES! IF THEY BREAK THROUGH OUR RANKS NOW IT'S ALL OVER!
THIS IS THE FINAL SHOW-DOWN, VILLAIN! THE MAN MAX VERSUS THE MOTOR MUTANTS. WE'LL FIGHT TO THE LAST MAN AND BEAST!
BLIND FOOLS! AND I HAVE ALREADY WON!
FOLLOW ME, YOU FIGHTING SCUM, TO VICTORY OR DEATH!

...UNTIL IT IS TOO LATE!
X-TINCTOR, LOOK! IT'S... IT'S A GHOST!!
WHAT ARE YOU IDIOTS YAPPING ABOUT, BULLVERISER? I'LL HAVE YOUR INSIDES GREASED AND--
BY THE DIRT IN THE GREAT CARBURETTOR! IT CAN'T BE!!
IT'S JUNGLE MAX! AND MAX ACTION!!
RROOOARRR!!
AND THE TWIN TIGERS, TOO! THIS IS TOO MUCH FOR ME! I'M SPLITTIN'!

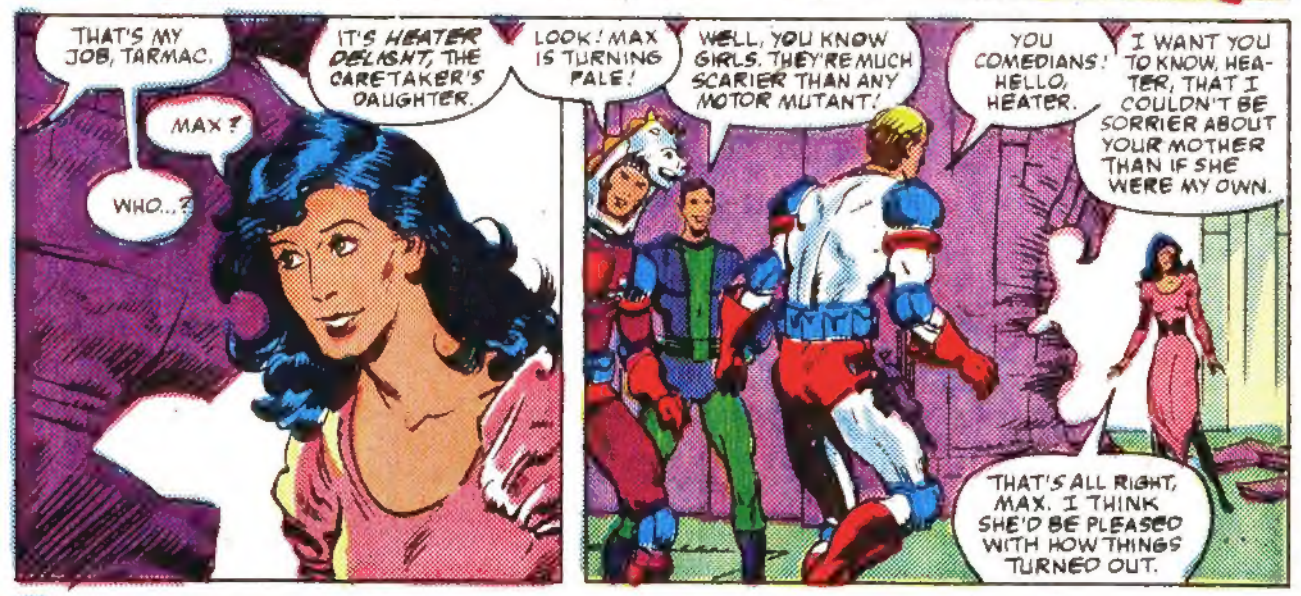
HOLD IT RIGHT THERE, SCUM! WE'VE STILL GOT AN ACE TO PLAY
X-TINCTOR'S LINING UP A SHOT WITH HIS AWESOME EXTERMINATOR! HE MIGHT STILL WIN THE DAY IF HE CAN GENERATE A BIG ENOUGH STORM!
I'VE ONLY GOT TIME FOR ONE TRY WITH THE LION LASER
AND IT BETTER BE GOOD!


SCK
FELL!
ARRRGH!!

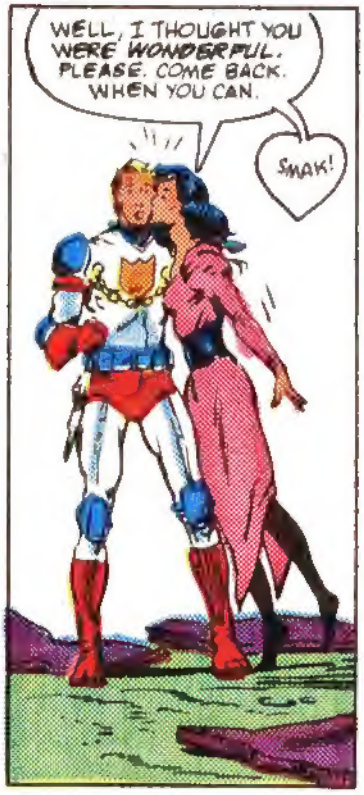
THE EXTERMINATOR! IT'S SHORTING OUT!
BLAST YOU, ACTION! YOU'VE WON THIS ROUND! BUT YOU HAVEN'T WON THE WAR!
PULL BACK, YOU MUTANTS! WE'LL SETTLE THIS LATER!

TARMAC, LOOK! TIGER WASN'T DESERTING US! BUT-- CAN THAT REALLY BE MAX? WE SAW HIM DIE! *
I DON'T KNOW, RHINOX. WE CAN FIGURE THAT OUT LATER!
BUT THE MUTANTS ARE RETREATING! LET'S GET IN A FEW LAST LICKS!
* IN ISSUE # 1.
SURE YOU DON'T WANT TO STICK AROUND, X-TINCTOR?
SNORTT!
SHARRANG!
RHINO RAMMER AND I WOULD JUST LOVE TO SHOW YOU THE TOWN--ESPECIALLY THE JUNK YARD!
I WON'T FORGET THIS, RHINOX! AND NEITHER WILL OBLITERATOR!
SO LONG, CREEPS! DON'T BOTHER TO WRITE!
LOOK! THE SUN'S COMING OUT AGAIN!
MAX? I CAN'T BELIEVE IT. I THOUGHT... WE ALL THOUGHT... YOU WERE DYING! YOU WERE DEAD!
I GOT BETTER. THE CARE-TAKER DID IT!
BESIDES, IF I WERE GONE, JUNGLE MAX HERE WOULDN'T HAVE ANYBODY ELSE TO PLAY WITH. I JUST HAD TO COME BACK.
ACTUALLY, I'M IN PRETTY GOOD SHAPE, JUNGLE MAX ISN'T. HIS EXTRA ENERGY HAS RUN OUT.
WE'VE GOT TO GET HIM BACK TO OUR JUNGLE LAIR HEADQUARTERS AS FAST AS POSSIBLE.

MAX! IS IT REALLY YOU?
WHY DON'T YOU ASK JUNGLE MAX HERE.
WE DON'T HAVE TO. JUNGLE MAX WOULDN'T HAVE LET ANYBODY ELSE RIDE HIM!
BOY, IS IT GOOD TO SEE YOU, MAX! YOU AND TIGER REALLY ARRIVED IN THE NICK OF TIME.

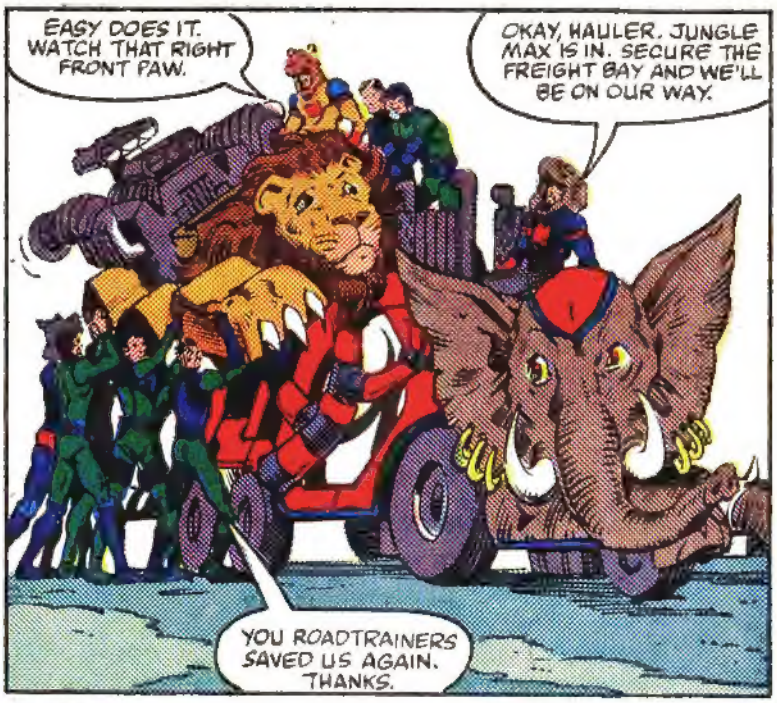

THAT'S MY JOB, TARMAC.
MAX?
WHO...?
IT'S HEATER DELIGHT, THE CARETAKER'S DAUGHTER.
LOOK! MAX IS TURNING PALE!
WELL, YOU KNOW GIRLS. THEY'RE MUCH SCARIER THAN ANY MOTOR MUTANT!
YOU COMEDIANS! HELLO, HEATER.
I WANT YOU TO KNOW, HEATER, THAT I COULDN'T BE SORRIER ABOUT YOUR MOTHER THAN IF SHE WERE MY OWN.
THAT'S ALL RIGHT, MAX. I THINK SHE'D BE PLEASED WITH HOW THINGS TURNED OUT.

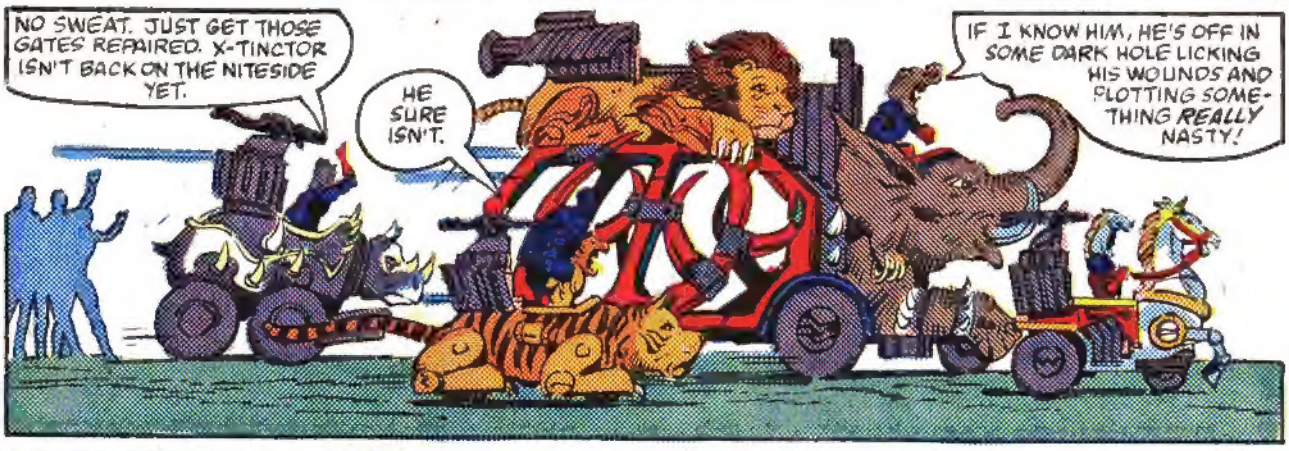
I THINK JUNGLE MAX IS GOING TO BE OKAY, AND IT'S ALL THANKS TO YOU.
YOU... WELL... ER... YOU WERE GREAT. YOU AND YOUR MOTHER, YOU WERE THE ONES WHO REALLY SAVED THE CITY.

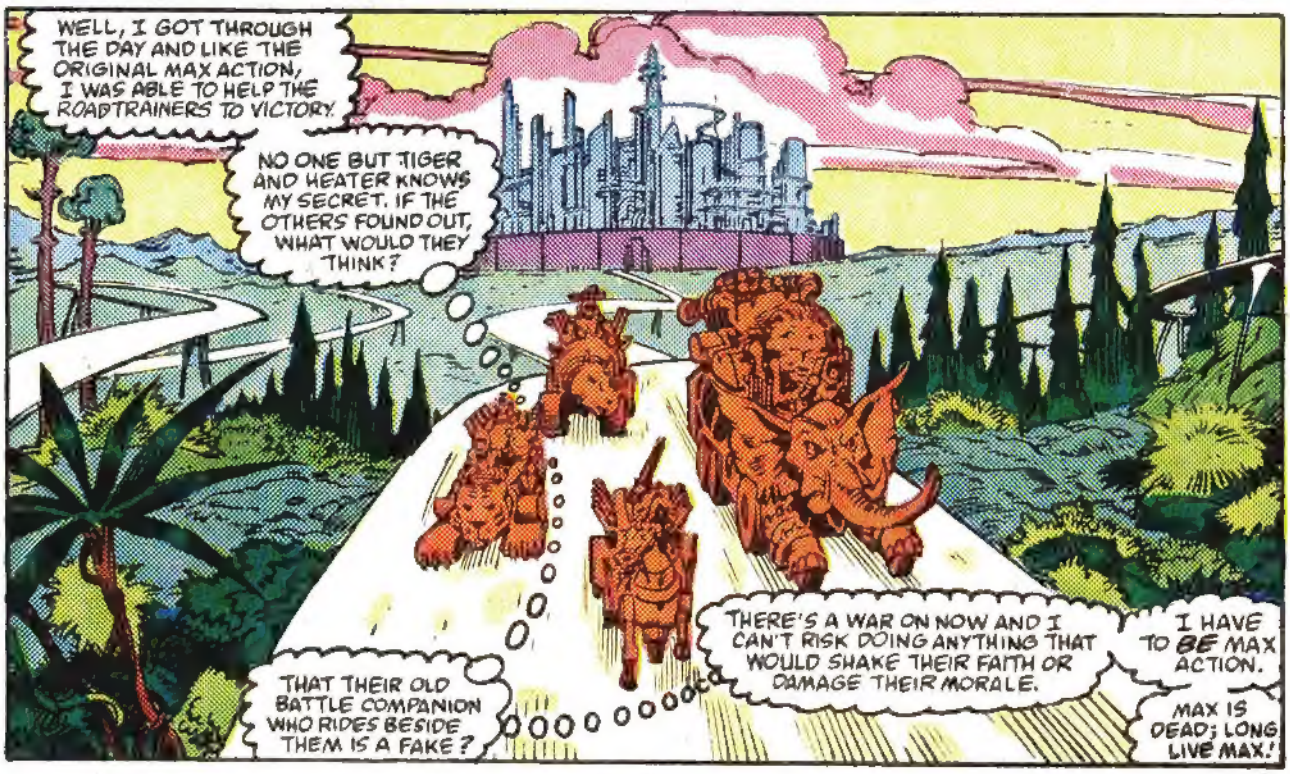

WELL, I THOUGHT YOU WERE WONDERFUL. PLEASE. COME BACK. WHEN YOU CAN.
SMAK!

YOU SMELL SOMETHING BURNING, TIGER?
I THINK IT'S MAX'S COMPLEXION.
WAKE UP, BUSTER. IT'S TIME WE WERE HEADING HOME.

OH, OH, YEAH. WE'D BETTER GET JUNGLE MAX LOADED INTO HUMUNGOUS HAULER FOR THE TRIP.
NO PROBLEM. I'LL GIVE YOU A LIFT.
HE COULDN'T MAKE IT ON HIS OWN.
AND MAX, IT'S GOOD TO HAVE YOU BACK. WHATEVER WENT ON THE LAST COUPLE OF DAYS, THAT'S JUST BETWEEN US.
THANK YOU, TIGER.


EASY DOES IT. WATCH THAT RIGHT FRONT PAW.
OKAY, HAULER. JUNGLE MAX IS IN. SECURE THE FREIGHT BAY AND WE'LL BE ON OUR WAY.
YOU ROADTRAINERS SAVED US AGAIN. THANKS.


NO SWEAT. JUST GET THOSE GATES REPAIRED. X-TINCTOR ISN'T BACK ON THE NITESIDE YET.
HE SURE ISN'T.
IF I KNOW HIM, HE'S OFF IN SOME DARK HOLE LICKING HIS WOUNDS AND PLOTTING SOMETHING REALLY NASTY!


WELL, I GOT THROUGH THE DAY AND LIKE THE ORIGINAL MAX ACTION, I WAS ABLE TO HELP THE ROADTRAINERS TO VICTORY.
NO ONE BUT TIGER AND HEATER KNOWS MY SECRET. IF THE OTHERS FOUND OUT, WHAT WOULD THEY THINK?
THAT THEIR OLD BATTLE COMPANION WHO RIDES BESIDE THEM IS A FAKE?
THERE'S A WAR ON NOW AND I CAN'T RISK DOING ANYTHING THAT WOULD SHAKE THEIR FAITH OR DAMAGE THEIR MORALE.
I HAVE TO BE MAX ACTION.
MAX IS DEAD; LONG LIVE MAX!

WHILE, SOMEWHERE NEARBY ON THE LITESIDE...

THE REST OF THE MUTANTS ARE REPAIRING THEIR CARNIVAURS AND FORAGING FOR FOOD.

IN PEOPLOPOLIS, THE CITIZENS ARE DOUBTLESSLY DANCING IN THE STREETS AND CELEBRATING THE LATEST VICTORY OF THE ANIMAX.

BAH!

AND THE ROADTRAINERS AND THEIR ANIMAX ARE PROBABLY HEADING FOR THEIR SECRET JUNGLE LAIR TO AWAIT MY NEXT MOVE.

WELL, THEY WON'T HAVE *LONG* TO WAIT!

BECAUSE I'VE ALREADY CONCEIVED A PLAN SO INGENIOUS, SO DASTARDLY, THAT ONLY THE TWISTED MIND OF *X-TINCTOR* COULD HAVE GIVEN BIRTH TO SUCH A HEINOUS THOUGHT!

THE TIME HAS COME FOR *RETREAD* TO WALK THE LITESIDE!

AND ONCE HE *DOES*, THE SECRETS OF THE ANIMAX WILL BECOME *MINE*! AND WITH THEM, DOMINION OVER THE *EARTH*!

NEXT ISSUE: "I HAVE NOT YET BEGUN TO FIGHT!"

OR..... "*THE RETREAD PLOT!*"